

EDITED TRANSCRIPTION – Original file: "Letter March 4th 1864.tif"
Edited to enhance readability. Added notes are *{italicized-bracketed}*.

{Envelope:}

Mrs. Susan M. Keeler
East Saginaw
Michigan

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Headquarters 23rd Michigan Volunteer Infantry
2nd Brigade 2nd Division 23rd Army Corps
Mossy Creek, Tennessee, *{Friday}* March 4th 1864

Dear Wife,

Since I last wrote I received yours of the 15th inst and have not been able to answer it sooner on account of being on the march. We are now only about 30 miles above Knoxville *{TN}*. Night before last we had another nights march in the mud from near Morristown *{TN}*. It rained two nights and two days before and the roads were muddy. We are only ordered to camp temporarily here and our 15 days march will not be far. I think as we are only 14 miles from Strawberry Plains *{TN}*. I will write as often as I can and I will send you some

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money as soon as I can after we are paid. When that will be I cannot tell. I have four months pay due me to the 29th of February. I think we will be paid in less than two months. I cannot send any before pay day for I have only three dollars left now. If we are paid four months pay I shall get over four hundred dollars and I will send you three hundred of it. I am sorry that you are in need of money and I hope you can get credit to some of the stores for a little while or until I can send you some money. You spoke of coming down here to see me with Corporal *{Thomas}* Devine. Well, dear wife, you must not attempt any such thing, for as bad as I would like to see you I cannot consent to your coming down here for I am so situated that I could not

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see you one day by myself and I could not take you into the field nor would a woman be allowed in camp if I could; and I would not be allowed to stop at a house and rather than have you come I would rather be dismissed *{from}* the service. You must be patient a while longer and I will try, as soon as I can see a chance, to get a leave of absence approved to come home. So you must wait and when I am in the service two years I will be exempt from draft. If I cannot come home by that time I will tender my resignation. I will send you my photograph as I can get it taken. I am no larger than I was before I left home and I look just the same as I did then. I am well as I ever was and I hope this will

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find you the same. Do not fear for me for I am safe. Keep up your spirits and be a good girl, dear Susan, and you will not be forgotten. I think of you every day and every hour in the day and I hope the day is not far distant that I can come home to stay. Take good care of Frankie and remember me to all while I remain as ever,

Your Affectionate Husband,
D. D. Keeler

W^o D^s 23^d Much Well Enjy
2nd Brig 2nd Div 23^d A^C
Mossy Creek Tenn March 4th 1864

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